

USS ARLINGTON (AGMR2)

C/O FLEET POST OFFICE
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94601

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11 FEB 1969

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(Unclassified when enclosures (3) and (15) through (21) are removed)

From: Commanding Officer, USS ARLINGTON (AGMR 2)
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09B9)

Subj: History of USS ARLINGTON (AGMR 2), 1968 (OPNAV Report 5750-1)

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12A

- Encl:
- (1) Chronology of Employment -- 1968
 - (2) Chronology of Highlights -- 1968
 - (3) Basic Narrative, History of USS ARLINGTON (AGMR2) -- 1968 - *removed*
 - (4) Gunnery Training Exercises
 - (5) Underway Alongside Replenishments
 - (6) Roster of officers on board as of 16 January 1968
 - (7) Roster of officers on board as of 31 December 1968
 - (8) Family Gram dated 15 January 1968
 - (9) Family Gram dated 14 March 1968
 - (10) Family Gram dated 6 May 1968
 - (11) Family Gram dated 15 June 1968
 - (12) Family Gram dated 30 July 1968
 - (13) Family Gram dated 5 October 1968
 - (14) Family Gram dated 11 December 1968
 - (15) Fourth Communications Patrol Report - 92
 - (16) Fifth Communications Patrol Report - 92
 - (17) Sixth Communications Patrol Report - 92
 - (18) Seventh Communications Patrol Report - 92
 - (19) Eighth Communications Patrol Report - 92
 - (20) Ninth Communications Patrol Report - 92
 - (21) Tenth Communications Patrol Report - 92
 - (22) Report of AGMR2 participation in APOLLO program
 - (23) Biography and picture of Commanding Officer, Captain Albert P. CARPENTER, USN
 - (24) Ship's general information pamphlet, "WELCOME ABOARD"

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) through (24) are forwarded.

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2. The 1968 Cruise Book is currently being printed and a copy will be forwarded when completed.

AP Carpenter
A. P. CARPENTER

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HISTORY OF USS ARLINGTON (AGMR2) -- 1968

On 1 January 1968, after a two day period of R&R, USS ARLINGTON departed Keelung, Taiwan en route to Yokosuka, Japan for a fifteen day upkeep period. ARLINGTON arrived in Yokosuka on 5 January. During her upkeep period, ARLINGTON made extensive use of shore based fleet schools, where approximately 35% of the crew received training from FLETRAGRU WESTPAC. ARLINGTON departed Yokosuka on 19 January and proceeded to the Gulf of Tonkin to provide direct communication support to U. S. Naval units of SEVENTH Fleet operating in Tonkin Gulf. On 26 January ARLINGTON received notification that personnel aboard were eligible for special 30 day free leave with a six month tour extension in accordance with BUPERSINST 1050.9A. ARLINGTON arrived on Yankee Station on 24 January but two days later was directed by COMSEVENTHFLT to proceed to the Sea of Japan to provide communication support to Naval Forces in Operation "FORMATION STAR" (TG 70.6 and TG 70.0) in connection with the capture of the USS PUEBLO (AGER 2). "FORMATION STAR" was intended to be a show of force in efforts to regain the captured PUEBLO. During transit of the Tsushima Straits, ARLINGTON was escorted for a short while by a Soviet RIGA class destroyer.

ARLINGTON departed the Sea of Japan on 9 February en route to Tonkin Gulf to resume communications support in that area, arrived on Yankee Station on 13 February and continued her special operations until 10 March at which time she departed en route to Yokosuka, Japan for upkeep. While en route to Yokosuka, on 12 March, the ship conducted a four hour full-power run. During these four hours the ship's average speed was 35.2 knots. ARLINGTON arrived in Yokosuka on 14 March completing a fifty-five day at sea period. While in Yokosuka, ARLINGTON made good use of the SRF and FLETRAGRU WESTPAC schools.

The ship remained in Yokosuka until 3 April, departing on that date for Sasebo, Japan where she was to receive an Operational Readiness Inspection. The ORI was conducted on 5 April by COMSERVGRU THREE and the critique given the following day. The final grade assigned was 87.35. ARLINGTON remained in Sasebo until 7 April, at which time she departed for Tonkin Gulf. She arrived on Yankee Station on 10 April and once again conducted special operations in direct communications support of Yankee team forces, remaining on Yankee Station until 11 May. The ship then set course for Sydney, Australia for a goodwill visit. On 16 May ARLINGTON crossed the Equator at Longitude 139-45.0 E. The ship arrived in Sydney on 22 May and conducted general visiting 25-26 May. During this time she received thousands of visitors. ARLINGTON departed Sydney on 29 May en route to Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines, where she arrived on 6 June and remained for two days to take on fuel and supplies. On 9 June ARLINGTON departed Subic Bay en route to Tonkin Gulf, arriving on Yankee Station on 11 June to commence special communications operations. On 12 June Captain A. P. CARPENTER, USN, reported to relieve as commanding officer. The change of command was effected 17 June, and Captain T. F. UTEGAARD, USN, relieved, departed ARLINGTON by helicopter.

ENCLOSURE(3)

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ARLINGTON remained on station in Tonkin Gulf until 20 July, departing for Hong Kong, B. C. on that date, arrived in Hong Kong 22 July and remained there for a recreational visit until 26 July when she was forced to get underway one day earlier than planned to evade a typhoon. From Hong Kong, ARLINGTON steamed to Yokosuka, Japan, arriving there on 31 July. She remained in Yokosuka for three weeks making use of this time for upkeep, repairs, and training. ARLINGTON departed Yokosuka on 21 August, en route to Kaohsiung, Taiwan for a three day recreational visit, arrived 25 August and got underway for Tonkin Gulf on 28 August. On 30 August, ARLINGTON once again arrived in Tonkin Gulf to resume her duties of communication relay for SEVENTH Fleet units. She remained on Yankee Station until 4 October at which time she departed for Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines. Arriving in Subic Bay 6 October, she remained for 9 days upkeep, then on 15 October was again en route to Tonkin Gulf, arriving there on 17 October.

ARLINGTON remained on Yankee Station until 10 November, then was en route to Sasebo, Japan for another ORI which was conducted on 13 November by COMSERVGRU THREE. Final mark for the Inspection was 81.29. Underway again the same day, the ship arrived in Yokosuka 15 November and began upkeep and repairs in preparation for assignment to the recovery force of the first manned lunar-orbital mission (APOLLO 8).

ARLINGTON was underway for Pearl Harbor, Hawaii on 2 December, arriving there 11 December. On 16 December she departed Pearl Harbor in company with USS YORKTOWN (CVS 11) for communications tests in connection with the APOLLO 8 recovery and returned to Pearl Harbor on 17 December. On 18 December ARLINGTON departed Pearl en route to the APOLLO 8 recovery area. On 27 December the APOLLO 8 space capsule, completing its manned orbit around the moon, splashed down and was recovered by USS YORKTOWN (CVS 11), the primary recovery ship. ARLINGTON then departed the recovery area and returned to Pearl Harbor, arriving on 29 December. On 31 December, ARLINGTON departed Pearl Harbor en route to Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines and to resume operations with the SEVENTH Fleet.

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ENCLOSURE (3)

USS ARLINGTON (AGMR 2)
CHRONOLOGY OF EMPLOYMENT -- 1968

1 JAN to 5 JAN	En route from Keelung, Taiwan to Yokosuka, Japan
5 JAN to 19 JAN	At Yokosuka, Japan
19 JAN to 24 JAN	En route from Yokosuka, Japan to Yankee Station
24 JAN to 26 JAN	At Yankee Station
26 JAN to 30 JAN	En route from Yankee Station to Sea of Japan
30 JAN to 9 FEB	At Sea of Japan
9 FEB to 13 FEB	En route from Sea of Japan to Yankee Station
13 FEB to 10 MAR	At Yankee Station
10 MAR to 14 MAR	En route from Yankee Station to Yokosuka, Japan
14 MAR to 3 APR	At Yokosuka, Japan
3 APR to 5 APR	En route from Yokosuka, Japan to Sasebo, Japan
5 APR to 7 APR	At Sasebo, Japan
7 APR to 10 APR	En route from Sasebo, Japan to Yankee Station
10 APR to 11 MAY	At Yankee Station
11 MAY to 22 MAY	En route from Yankee Station to Sydney, Australia
22 MAY to 29 MAY	At Sydney, Australia
29 MAY to 6 JUNE	En route from Sydney, Australia to Subic Bay, Philippines
6 JUNE to 9 JUNE	At Subic Bay, Philippines
9 JUNE to 11 JUNE	En route from Subic Bay, Philippines to Yankee Station
11 JUNE to 20 JUL	At Yankee Station
20 JUL to 22 JUL	En route from Yankee Station to Hong Kong, B. C.
22 JUL to 26 JUL	At Hong Kong, B. C.
26 JUL to 31 JUL	En route from Hong Kong, B. C. to Yokosuka, Japan

ENCLOSURE (1)

CHRONOLOGY OF EMPLOYMENT -- 1968 (CONT'D)

31 JUL to 21 AUG	At Yokosuka, Japan
21 AUG to 25 AUG	En route from Yokosuka, Japan to Kaohsiung, Taiwan
25 AUG to 28 AUG	At Kaohsiung, Taiwan
28 AUG to 30 AUG	En route from Kaohsiung, Taiwan to Yankee Station
30 AUG to 4 OCT	At Yankee Station
4 OCT to 6 OCT	En route from Yankee Station to Subic Bay, Philippines
6 OCT to 15 OCT	At Subic Bay, Philippines
15 OCT to 17 OCT	En route from Subic Bay, Philippines to Yankee Station
17 OCT to 10 NOV	At Yankee Station
10 NOV to 13 NOV	En route from Yankee Station to Sasebo, Japan
13 NOV	At Sasebo, Japan for ORI
13 NOV to 15 NOV	En route from Sasebo, Japan to Yokosuka, Japan
15 NOV to 2 DEC	At Yokosuka, Japan
2 DEC to 11 DEC	En route from Yokosuka, Japan to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii
11 DEC to 16 DEC	At Pearl Harbor, Hawaii
16 DEC to 17 DEC	Underway for communications tests near Pearl Harbor, Hawaii
17 DEC to 18 DEC	At Pearl Harbor, Hawaii
18 DEC to 29 DEC	Underway for APOLLO 8 Recovery Mission
29 DEC to 31 DEC	At Pearl Harbor, Hawaii
31 DEC	En route from Pearl Harbor, Hawaii to Subic Bay, Philippines

CHRONOLOGY OF HIGHLIGHTS -- 1968

26 January Personnel aboard ARLINGTON designated as eligible for
30 days special leave with six month extension
(BUPERSINST 1050.9A)

26 January through 9 February Operation "FORMATION STAR" in the Sea of Japan

30 January Commander R. J. ATKINSON, USN, (b) (6) relieved
Commander R. A. WHEELER, USN, (b) (6) as Executive Officer

5 April ORI at Sasebo, Japan

16 May Crossed Equator at Longitude 139-45.0 E

22 May through 29 May R&R in Sydney, Australia

17 June Captain A. P. CARPENTER, USN, (b) (6) relieved
Captain T. F. UTEGAARD, USN, (b) (6) as Commanding Officer

13 November ORI at Sasebo, Japan

27 December Splashdown of APOLLO 8

ENCLOSURE (2)